

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



OIA24-305

Andy Langley
fyi-request-25175-637fc74f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andy

I refer to your email dated 23 July 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Now that more than 6 months have passed, I'd like to revisit this request¹ and see what progress, if any, has been made on this pre-election promise?”

Please could you supply any relevant information you've received and also all related correspondence between you and the Ministry of Transport on this matter?”

On 26 July 2024, we contacted you suggesting refining the second part of your request to:

“All policy advice you received from the Ministry of Transport and related correspondence between you and The Ministry of Transport since October 2023 regarding government's commitment to public EV charging.”

23 documents have been identified as in scope of your request and are detailed in Annex 1. The schedule outlines how the information has been treated under the Act.

Certain information is refused under the following section of the Act:

18(d) the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the

¹ Your 23 July 2024 request referred to an earlier request from 14 December 2023 requesting:
*“I was wondering if you can tell me the unit cost per install of the 10,000 EV chargers that you're proposing to install as per your election campaign?
It would also be interesting to know about the frequency of the installations as 10,000 chargers in a 3 year term equates to nearly 30 per day.
Could you please indicate where these chargers are likely to be located and who's going to operate them (and make the money). Are they going to be overseen by ChargeNet who already operate a large network of charging stations nationwide? If not, what are your proposals for accessing and paying for a charge as it's imperative that charging doesn't need fragmentation in terms of multiple apps/RFID tags etc?”*

Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

For context in respect to your questions, I note that the goal of 10,000 charge points reflects that New Zealand needs to increase the number of public chargers on the network. To achieve this, a cross-agency Taskforce has been established to drive work and engage with industry. This work programme is underway with a focus on transitioning the co-investment model to maximise private sector investment, reduce red tape and address consenting barriers to the installation of public EV chargers.

The locations and installation frequency of the 10,000 charge points will be guided by the market, as it is best placed to identify where charging demand is highest. However, we expect the 10,000 public charge points networks will provide comprehensive coverage across the country, giving New Zealanders the confidence that they can charge their vehicles where they need to.

I also note that the Ministry of Transport has previously proactively released some documents relating to EV charging infrastructure. These can be found [here](#)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown'.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

Annex 1.

#	Document type	Date	Title	Treatment under the Act
Briefings and Cabinet papers				
1	Briefing	14 Feb 2024	OC230964 Initial Briefing on Electric vehicle charging network and infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
2	Briefing	1 May 2024	OC240440 Objectives and options for the government co-investment model for EV charging infrastructure	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	Briefing	4 Jun 2024	OC240520 Options for EV charging co-investment model	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	Briefing	3 Jul 2024	OC240627 Recommendations on co-investment model for electric vehicle charging infrastructure	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
Weekly reports				
5	Weekly report	2 February 2024	EV charging infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
6	Weekly report	Week ending 9 Feb 2024	EV charging infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
8	Weekly report	Week ending 16 February 2024	EV charging deep dive	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
7	Weekly report	Week ending 1 March 2024	EV charging	Released in full
8	Weekly report	Week commencing 25 March 2024	Cabinet paper: Supercharging EV infrastructure work programme	Released in full

9	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 17 April 2024	Supercharging EV Infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
10	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 24 April 2024 – Monday 22 April 2024	Meeting with the Ministry of transport. Actions from officials – meeting	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
11	Weekly report	Weekly report as at Wednesday 24 April 2024	EV charging	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website here
12	Weekly report	Monday 6 May 2024	Actions from Transport officials meeting: EV charging work programme	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
13	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 8 May 2024	EV charging infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
14	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 15 May 2024 (Tuesday 14 May 2024)	Meeting with the Ministry of Transport: Supercharging EV	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
15	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 15 May 2024	Ongoing actions from transport official's meetings	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website

16	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 15 May 2024	EV Charging infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
17	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 29 May 2024	EV charging work programme	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
18	Weekly report	As at Wednesday 29 May	EV charging Infrastructure	Refused under section 18(d) as the information requested will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website
Emails				
20	Email	19 March 2024	RE: ATTN DOM: EV charging CBA approach	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
21	Email	22 March 2024	Supercharging EV infrastructure Cab paper	Withheld under section 9(2)(a) and section 9(2)(g)(i).
22	Email	25 March 2024	FW: Joint MBIE/ MoT cabinet paper on EV charging, working with ECCA	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
Other documents				
23	Word document	10 June 2024	Co-investment options A3 for discussion with Minister.docx	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)